

## **PRES (Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome): A Guide for Patients and Caregivers**

### **What is PRES?**

PRES is swelling in the back part of the brain. The swelling is not usually permanent, but it can damage the brain.

### **How could I develop PRES?**

PRES isn't common, but people can develop it after certain treatments, or from taking certain medications. There's a lot we don't know about PRES, and there's no way to tell who will develop it.

### **What puts me at a higher risk of getting PRES?**

You may have a higher risk of getting PRES if you're taking drugs that affect your immune system, like:

- Cyclosporine
- Tacrolimus
- Sirolimus
- High dose steroid therapy

You may also have a higher risk of PRES if you have:

- High blood pressure
- Kidney problems
- Build-up of fluid in your body

### **What are the symptoms of PRES?**

PRES symptoms are hard for other people to see. So it's important to tell your caregiver or your doctor right away if you have any of the following:

- High blood pressure
- Headache
- Throwing up
- Seizures
- Changes in vision
- Changes in behavior
- Changes in your ability to think clearly, like feeling confused
- Feeling drowsy or tired

### **If you have a seizure, you or your caregiver needs to:**

- Call 911 for an ambulance right away.
- Tell the medical team at the emergency department that you've had a transplant and you may have PRES.

### What happens if my doctors think I might have PRES?

Your doctors will take images of your brain called CT scans or MRIs to look for signs of PRES.

If you do have PRES, the best treatment depends on your symptoms and what the images show. You may need to stay in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) while you recover.

### Disclaimer

This information is prepared specifically for patients taking part in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and does not necessarily apply to individuals who are patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your health care team.

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